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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

RC Argentina
ARGENTINA

new list
PF
Hold out
for MLC
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(1) ACOSTA, Osvaldo

Former professor of law at the University of Buenos Aires, was arrested at his home with his family in Moreno (near Buenos Aires) on May 29, 1978.

He was beaten, submitted to simulated execution and his home was ransacked. His wife, Mrs. Nelida Lozano and his five sons were subsequently freed. The reasons for his arrest are not known.

(2) GIORDANO CORTAZZO, Héctor

Sr. H. Giordano Cortazzo is a 39 year old lawyer and journalist. A Uruguayan national, he had lived in Buenos Aires since 1973, and was under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He was arrested in June 1978 at his home in Floresta (Buenos Aires); in the course of his arrest he sustained severe head injuries. Although his arrest has not been officially acknowledged, he is known to be detained in Palomar air base in Buenos Aires province and to have undergone severe torture.

In Uruguay, Sr. Giordano Cortazzo was a defence lawyer of political prisoners and lawyer to a textile trade union. He was a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party. As a journalist he worked on the newspaper Epoca and De Frente.

(3) HOCKMAN, Abraham

A well known defence lawyer who was abducted from his home in Buenos Aires on 17 August 1978. The Argentinian authorities have denied having arrested him.

His wife and daughter have been warned that his life would be jeopardized if they persisted in their efforts to find him.

The reasons for his arrest are not known.

(4) INTELISANO Lucila

Lawyer, was reported abducted in November 1978. To date there is no news of her whereabouts. Her case was previously mentioned in the first issue of the CLJL Bulletin (February 1978).

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(5) DIAZ LESTREM, Guillermo

The body of Guillermo Díaz Lestrem, a prominent defence lawyer, was found on 30 November 1978 in Buenos Aires. He was reported missing at the end of October 1978.

His case was included in the first issue of the CLJL Bulletin in which it was reported that in March 1976 he had been arrested by the security forces, detained without trial and subsequently released in 1977. Prior to his disappearance, he had presented a preventive habeas corpus writ (to Federal Judge Francisco Marquardt) after learning that an unknown group of the security forces had been looking for him at a previous address. His family have also reported that he had received telephone threats.

As a judge, in October 1973, he had ordered the release of a group of Chilean refugees who were detained without charge. It is reported that the security forces objected to this order. In August 1974, there was a bomb attack on his home in Buenos Aires. During 1976, he was detained by the military, reportedly tortured, and held in Sierra Chica Prison (Buenos Aires Province) for several months, without charge or trial, at the disposal of the National Executive Power.

His wife, Nelly Ortiz, also a lawyer (and who has defended political prisoners) was kidnapped in November 1976 and has since disappeared. She is now feared dead.

Judge Emilio Jorge García Méndez has ordered an investigation into his death.

(6) PERPIGNAN, Sara

Lawyer, was reportedly abducted in November 1978. To date, there has been no news of her whereabouts.

(7) PESCI, Eduardo

Eduardo Pesci, a 36 year old defence lawyer was detained by unknown persons in a Buenos Aires street on 23 October, at approximately 20.00h. A writ of habeas corpus has been filed, but it has not been possible to establish his whereabouts to date.

(8) SEMAN, Elias

A well known defence lawyer and member of the Argentinian communist party, was arrested by the army on the 17th August 1978. Mr. Seman is the father of two children.

The reasons for this arrest are not known.

(9) ZARACEANSKY, Mario

Mr. Zaraceansky, an active labour lawyer in Argentina, who taught at the Faculty of Law at the University of Cordoba, was arrested with his wife in July of 1977, and has been detained since that time without charge.

En Julio de 1978 fueron secuestrados en Buenos Aires, desapareciendo posteriormente, dos abogados, que eran miembros de la ASOCIACION DE ABOGADOS DE BUENOS AIRES.

- * Dr. Adolfo CHORNI, detenido en la vía pública por un grupo armado.
- * Dra. Norma Rachel FALCONI, detenida en su domicilio.

En ambos casos las autoridades niegan tenerlos detenidos; la noticia apareció en Le Monde en agosto/1978.-